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January 16, 2004

Mark B. McClellan, MD, PhD
Commissioner, FDA
5600 Fishers Lane
Parklawn Bldg., Room 14-71
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Dr. McClellan:

As a fellow physician, you are aware of the many ethical dilemmas inherent in medical practice. I do not wish to argue the morality of abortion, but do wish to emphasize the rights of all people to be opposed to this act. This issue causes ethical dilemmas for people on both sides of the issue. By allowing "morning-after" pills to be over-the-counter, I believe this will increase the pressure already placed on pharmacists to violate their consciences.

The pill can have an abortifacient effect. Over-the-counter availability will lead to a greater assault on human life at its earliest stages. Many women (and their partners) who would be deeply concerned about any abortifacient effect are unaware how this drug works. Over-the-counter availability without medical counseling violates their right to informed consent.

Over-the-counter availability encourages routine use, and exposes these women to the serious risks of birth control pills, without medical supervision.

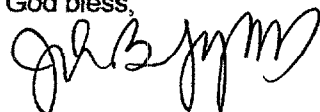
Plan B is associated with a heightened risk of ectopic pregnancy, a potentially fatal condition. The common side-effects of the "morning-after" pill mimic the signs and symptoms of an ectopic pregnancy and can mask its presence.

The potential for harm is especially grave for minor girls and their partners.

Please do NOT approve over-the-counter availability of "morning-after" pills!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

God bless,



Joseph B. Szgalsky, MD, FAAFP

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